THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not department or subordinate office under it. So far as the Ministry is concerned, there are 58 electronic bilingual typewriters.

Decision of OPEC to increase Crude Production

4985. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of OPEC to increase crude production will reduce India's import bill;

(b) if so, whether due to the decision of the OPEC, Government propose to reduce the price of petroleum products in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what would be the impact of the decision of the OPEC on our public sector oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) OPEC members (excluding Iran) in their meeting held on 27.3.2000 agreed to increase the production of crude oil by 1.45 million barrels per day which has resulted in some fall in oil prices in international market. OPEC have, however, decided to review their decision in June, 2000. Currently, prices of oil in international market are volatile. The oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices. There is no proposal to reduce prices of controlled petroleum products.

(d) The refinery margins depend on price differentials in the crude oil and product prices. Our oil companies, including the public sector oil companies, would bear the financial impact depending on the oil and prodcut price parity in the international market.

Marketing Rights to Private and Joint Sector Refineries

4986. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to grant marketing rights to private and joint sector refineries in the country;